

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, LA, VN

SUBJECT: EXTENDED INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROGRAM

1. WE EXPECT SHORTLY TO CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS ON AN ADDITIONAL 11,000 SPACES TO BE USED FOR REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS, MAINLY FROM THAILAND BUT ALSO FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. WE URGENTLY NEED EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE CRITERIA BOTH WITH RESPECT TO ANY DEFINITIONAL CHANGES WHICH EMBASSY WISHES TO SUGGEST AND ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE NUMBERS IN EACH CATEGORY, AS DEFINED BELOW, CURRENTLY IN THAILAND.

2. CATEGORY I WOULD INCLUDE SPOUSES, PARENTS, GRAND-PARENTS, CHILDREN, UNMARRIED BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND UNMARRIED GRANDCHILDREN OF 1) U.S. CITIZENS, 2) PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS AND 3) REFUGEES PAROLED INTO THE UNITED STATES PRIOR TO OCTOBER 31.

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3. CATEGORY II WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE UP OF FORMER U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES BUT WILL BE LIMITED TO EMPLOYEES IN SUPERVISORY OR OTHERWISE SENSITIVE OR MEANINGFUL POSITIONS WHO MIGHT FACE PERSECUTION IF THEY RETURNED TO THEIR HOME.

4. CATEGORY III WILL BE MADE UP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE CONSIDERED TO BE "HIGH RISK" AND WHO CAN BE ABSORBED IN THE US SOCIETY IF THEY MEET ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

A. INDIVIDUALS WHO WORKED WITH US FORCES OR US MISSIONS IN MEANINGFUL POSITIONS;

B. INDIVIDUALS EDUCATED OR TRAINED IN US SCHOOLS OR INSTALLATIONS IN OTHER THAN BASIC TRAINING ACTIVITIES;

C. INDIVIDUALS WHOSE STATUS OR POSITION IN THE FORMER GOVERNMENTS OR ARMED FORCES OF VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, OR LAOS AND WHOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES POSE PARTICULAR OBSTACLES TO THEIR ASSIMILATION IN THIRD COUNTRIES OR TO THEIR EVENTUAL RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. (COMMENT: EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AS TO WHICH SUBCRITERIA WOULD BE MEANINGFUL IN RANK ORDERING APPLICANTS WITHIN THIS RATHER BROAD CATEGORY ARE INVITED. OCCURRING TO US ARE SUCH CONSIDERATIONS AS WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL WAS IN A MEANINGFUL POSITION WITHIN A WHOLLY UNFUNDED PROGRAM AND WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL WAS TRAINED WITH US FUNDING.)

D. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE EMINENTLY RESETTLABLE IN THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF THEIR PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WHOSE EMINENCE IN THEIR FIELD OF ENDEAVOR MAKES THEM VULNERABLE TO PERSECUTION BY A COMMUNIST REGIME. (COMMENT: WE SEE THIS SUB-CATEGORY AS BEING ADMINISTERED IN A RELATIVELY RESTRICTED FASHION.)

5. CATEGORY IV PROVIDES FOR THOSE CASES THAT ARE OF A HUMANITARIAN OR COMPASSIONATE TYPE. THIS CATEGORY COULD BE USED TO PROVIDE FOR UNFORESEEN CASES FOR WHICH WE CLEARLY SHOULD PROVIDE SOME ASSISTANCE. IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE EVENT THAT THE SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRICTIVE

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DEFINITIONS OF RELATIVES ABOVE CREATES TRUE HARDSHIP CASES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN PAROLING IN THE VERY CLOSE RELATIVES PROVIDED IN CATEGORY I, A MORE DISTANT RELATIVE, UNABLE TO CARE FOR HERSELF OR HIMSELF, AND DEPENDENT UPON THE FAMILY UNIT COULD BE PAROLED UNDER CATEGORY IV.

6. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT VIETNAMESE, CAMBODIAN, AND LAO REFUGEES WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS EXTENDED PROG-

RAM BUT, IN THE CASE OF LAO, THE NUMBERS UNDER THE PRE-SENT PROGRAM SHOULD FIRST BE EXPENDED.

7. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE A SELECTED GROUP OF MEO WHO ARE ABSORABLE IN

THE UNITED STATES SOCIETY AND WHO HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES AND WHO HAVE SPECIAL CLAIMS ON US FOR OUR ASSISTANCE. THESE WOULD INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, MEO T-28 PILOTS. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO INCLUDE SUCH MEO IN THIS EXTENDED PROGRAM AND INVITE EMBASSY COMMENTS AND ESTIMATES AS TO NUMBER WHICH MIGHT BE INVOLVED.

8. A CONTINUING PROBLEM HAS BEEN THE QUESTION OF CLOSE RELATIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE IN THE UNITED STATES IN A NON-IMMIGRANT STATUS AT THE TIME OF THE FALL OF THEIR COUNTRY TO THE COMMUNISTS. TO DATE, SUCH INDIVIDUALS HAVE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO CONFER PAROLE ELIGIBILITY ON THEIR DEPENDENT SPOUSES AND MINOR CHILDREN. THIS HAS BEEN BASED, IN PART, ON THE CONCERN THAT MORE LIBERAL TREATMENT MIGHT INVOLVE UNACCEPTABLY GREAT NUMBERS. ONCE AGAIN, CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO EXTENDING THIS CATEGORY TO CORRESPOND TO THE DEFINITION FOUND IN CATEGORY I. THUS, REQUEST EMBASSY GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO AN ESTIMATE OF NUMBERS WHICH MIGHT BE INVOLVED.

9. IN PLANNING FOR THIS PROGRAM, THE PREVIOUS CUT-OFF DATES OF MARCH 15 AND JULY 1, 1975 WILL NO LONGER BE A CONSIDERATION.

10. UNDER PREVIOUS PROGRAMS, ONCE AN INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIED UNDER ONE OF THE PRIORITY CATEGORIES, HE WAS ABLE TO BRING CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH HIM ALL ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES. WE NO LONGER HAVE NUMBERS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH A LIBERAL PROGRAM. THUS, A REFUGEE QUALIFYING FOR PAROLE UNDER ONE OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO BRING WITH HIM THE FOLLOWING ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES; WIFE, CHILDREN, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AND MINOR UNMARRIED GRANDCHILDREN AND MINOR UNMARRIED BROTHERS AND SISTERS. SUCH ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES DO NOT CONFER ANY FURTHER ELIGIBILITY ON THEIR OWN RELATIVES AND ANY OTHER MORE DISTANT RELATIVE COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE FAMILY GROUP ONLY IF THAT CASE IS JUDGED TO FALL UNDER CATEGORY IV.

11. REQUEST EMBASSY PROVIDE RESPONSE BY COB JANUARY 19. KISSINGER

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